

Washington, DC -- On Monday, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7) cosponsored and voted for bipartisan legislation honoring the 98th anniversary of the National Association for the Advanced of Colored People (NAACP).

"Throughout its history, the NAACP has helped changed the face of America through the persistence of legal and moral persuasion," noted Joe. "Racial hatred and discrimination have no place in our society. That is why I am proud to have co-sponsored this legislation honoring the important work of the NAACP in its 98th year. It is groups such as the NAACP that have enabled us to say 'we are better than this' and 'we need to change.'"

Since the NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, it has been committed to achieving equality through non-violence. Originally known as the National Negro Committee, the NAACP was founded on the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth by a multiracial group of activists who answered 'The Call' for a national conference to discuss the civil and political rights of African Americans.

As the oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP has used political pressure, peaceful protest, effective lobbying, and litigation to serve as the voice, as well as the shield, for minority Americans. Its accomplishments include its prominence in lobbying for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

On Saturday, February 3, Joe spoke at the Founder's Day Luncheon of the Media Area Unit of the NAACP.

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*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from*

*Harvard University.* According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. Congress.